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An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street,
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26 May 2026

Re: Case reference: PAX19.324161

Proposed development of 15 no. wind turbines, a permanent 220kV on-site substation, and associated infrastructure; applicant Lemanaghan Wind Farm Designated Activity Company

To whom it may concern

I wish to submit the following observation on the above application.

St Manchan, whose name means 'little monk', was the son of St Mella and was the patron saint of Lemanaghan. St Ciaran of Clonmacnoise had given St Manchan land to set up his own monastery. The annals of Clonmacnoise were later translated here in Lemanaghan. The ruins and surrounding graveyard are there to this day, dating back 5,500 years to the 7th century. St Manchan's remains are nearby in Boher church where a shrine was built in 1838, the largest of its kind in existence

Stories of St Manchan are legendary in local folklore (The Calf of Manchan) and a number of his artefacts that are today kept in the National Museum include the L crozier, wooden staff and blackthorn staff that were found next to the medieval tracking (believed to link Lemanaghan to Clonmacnoise), a polished stone axe head that was found in Straduff 1996, shoes - medieval and post medieval - in Curraglass bog, the wider bog area is highly sensitive for its archaeological significance. It should be noted that in 2010 Clonmacnoise was included as a tentative World Heritage Site,

Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027 County Wind Energy Strategy Section 5: Identifying Suitable Areas in County Offaly for Wind Energy Development. I note that in the list of the steps to take, consideration of People is not mentioned. In addition I would like to draw to your attention the following extracts from the above strategy

*5.2.1 Landscape Character Assessment: The sensitivity of a landscape is a measure of its ability to accommodate change or intervention, **without suffering unacceptable effects to its character.***

*High Landscape Sensitivity areas include the Slieve Bloom Mountains, Croghan Hill and its environs, the River Shannon and its Callows, the Grand Canal Corridor, important wetlands such as Lough Boora, the esker landscape and **archaeological and historical landscapes**.*

*5.3.2 Areas of High Amenity Areas of High Amenity (AHA) are special landscape areas within the county, which due to their outstanding natural beauty and/or **unique interest value are generally sensitive to the impacts of development**. These designations are additional to statutory environmental designations, National and European, which overlap these AHAs. Map No. 5 below shows the extent and location of the AHAs in the county as listed in Table 4.17 of Chapter 4 'Biodiversity and Landscape'. As expressed in Chapter 4 of Volume 1 of this County Development Plan, **it is Council priority to protect and preserve the county's primary Areas of High Amenity, therefore, having regard to the potential significant visual impact associated with windfarms,***

Under the heading Future Conflicts in the Lemanaghan Development plan it is stated that Bord na Mona will liaise regarding sensitivities of the significance of the place and that land use and inappropriate development will be considered. This is clearly not the the case here in relation to Lemanaghan.

Offaly has already played its part in the development of renewable energies and in this case I feel that there is no reason to encroach on our history, our place nor our people

The proposed development of a windfarm on this sacred site is nothing short of archaeological vandalism.

Yours faithfully

Hughie Egan